

ASSEMBLY, No. 1411

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman GILBERT "WHIP" L. WILSON

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Raises age requirement of compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18 years old.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/31/2012)

1 AN ACT concerning compulsory education and amending various
2 sections of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. N.J.S.18A:38-25 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:38-25. Every parent, guardian or other person having
9 custody and control of a child between the ages of six and **[16]** 18
10 years, if the child has not graduated from high school, shall cause
11 such child regularly to attend the public schools of the district or a
12 day school in which there is given instruction equivalent to that
13 provided in the public schools for children of similar grades and
14 attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere than at
15 school.

16 (cf: N.J.S.18A:38-25)

17

18 2. N.J.S.18A:38-27 is amended to read as follows:

19 18A:38-27. Any child **[between the ages of six and 16 years]**
20 required to attend school pursuant to N.J.S.18A:38-25 who shall
21 repeatedly be absent from school, and any child of such age found
22 away from school during school hours whose parent, guardian or
23 other person having charge and control of the child is unable to
24 cause him to attend school and any pupil who is incorrigible,
25 actually vagrant, vicious, or immoral in conduct, shall be deemed to
26 be a juvenile delinquent and shall be proceeded against as such.

27 (cf: N.J.S.18A:38-27)

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29 3. N.J.S.18A:38-28 is amended to read as follows:

30 18A:38-28. Any attendance officer who shall find any child
31 **[between six and 16 years of age]** required to attend school
32 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:38-25 who is a truant from school, shall take
33 the child and deliver him to the parent, guardian or other person
34 having charge and control of the child, or to the teacher of the
35 school which such child is lawfully required to attend.

36 (cf: N.J.S.18A:38-28)

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38 4. N.J.S.18A:38-31 is amended to read as follows:

39 18A:38-31. A parent, guardian or other person having charge
40 and control of a child **[between the ages of six and 16 years]**
41 required to attend school pursuant to N.J.S.18A:38-25, who shall
42 fail to comply with any of the provisions of this article relating to
43 his duties, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person and shall be
44 subject to a fine of not more than \$25.00 for a first offense and not
45 more than \$100.00 for each subsequent offense, in the discretion of

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 the court.

2 In any such proceeding, the summons issuing therein, or in
3 special circumstances a warrant, shall be directed to the alleged
4 disorderly person and the child.

5 (cf: P.L.1980, c.153, s.1)

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7 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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10 STATEMENT

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12 Under current law, children between the ages of six and 16 must
13 regularly attend school. This bill raises the age requirement for
14 compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18 years of age.
15 However, under the bill, students who graduate from high school
16 prior to their eighteenth birthday would be exempt from this
17 requirement.

18 Societal changes and the increasing demands of the labor market
19 continue to place a premium on education. A person who stops
20 attending school at age 16 often lacks the skills and preparation to
21 successfully compete in the workforce and function in society.
22 Requiring students to attend school until the age of 18 will help
23 ensure that students receive an adequate education and are
24 sufficiently prepared to compete in the labor market and function in
25 society.